



# **WYKHAM WEEKLY—ISSUE 13:**

## **28th February 2022**



### **Editorial—Mr Bent**

Half term has absolutely flown by, and we're back ready for another term of hard work and learning. I hope you all had time to relax and enjoy the time off, and that the various storms that we faced didn't cause too much of an issue for you all. My garden remained relatively unscathed—a couple of bits of wood came off the shed but nothing that won't be fixed by some nails and a hammer! I also managed to lay fresh flooring in my bathroom, and give it a nice new coat of paint, so I've had a relatively productive half term! I hope you all are willing and ready to work, and don't forget—if you want to join in and write for Wykhams Weekly, we meet three times a week (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday) in H2! Everyone is welcome.

### **Mr Bent**

### **The situation in Ukraine:**

I am sure you have all seen the news about the horrible things that are happening in Ukraine at the moment. It's very scary, and quite difficult to understand exactly what is happening and why. I have produced an information PowerPoint which has been sent to your Mentors, which will hopefully help you to understand, but if you have any other questions, please come and see me or another adult who might be able to give you some more information.

Essentially, Vladimir Putin (the leader of Russia) has said that he is concerned about Russian security, because of an international organisation called NATO, which was set up in 1949, is having a close relationship with Ukraine. Ukraine is next to Russia, and Putin is worried that if Ukraine joins NATO, then NATO will try and attack him in Russia. Last week (Monday), Putin made a speech where he recognised the rights of two small regions in Ukraine, called Donetsk and Luhansk, to rule themselves and ignore the Ukrainian President. He also promised to protect them, and then on Thursday, announced a 'military operation' in Ukraine's Donbas region. From there, he has ordered his army to attack multiple areas of Ukraine, including the capital of Kyiv, which has led to fierce fighting where the Ukrainian people are not willing to surrender to Russia.

Western countries like the USA, Germany and Britain have condemned Russia and are putting in financial sanctions—they are also sending equipment and advisors to Ukraine to help them. Many countries around Ukraine, like Poland and Albania, are accepting Ukrainian refugees so as they can get to safety.

It is important that you do not share any misinformation, and that you are checking your sources. Also, please be kind to anyone who may have some kind of link to either Russia or Ukraine. It's a scary situation

### **Sporting News**

### **The Winter Olympics:**

The 2022 Winter Olympics officially began on the 4th of February and continued until the 20th! This year it is hosted in Beijing. The winter Olympics contains sports such as the following:

Luge

Figure Skating

Alpine Skiing

Snowboard

Curling

And more! The winter Olympics has been involved in lots of concerns and controversies, however. One of these being a diplomatic boycott, due to the human rights situation in China.

Britain won 2 medals overall—gold in the women's curling and silver in the men's curling.

### **Daisy**

### **Entertainment News:**

### **The Brit Awards:**

The annual Brit Awards were held on the 8th February. It contained performances by famous artists and then were nominated for different awards. Some of the songs that were performed were Bad habits by Ed Sheeran, Easy on Me by Adele and more! Some of the awards included artist of the year, which was won by Adele, best rock/alternative act, won by Sam Fender, best international artist, won by Billie Eilish, and best pop/RnB act, which was won by Dua Lipa.

### **Daisy and Chloe**



**ATL News:**

The last week of term saw the final products for both the Year 7 Shakespeare Redesigned project, and the Year 8 Mars Colony project. Mr Sterland and Mrs White have provided us with details of both projects here:

**Year7—Shakespeare Redesigned**

The Year 7 students at WP and FIB have just completed their latest ATL assignment.

Where they had to consider the following driving question :

How do we, as Year 7 students in the 21st century, imagine key themes from Shakespeare's work in a different era?

They had to work in small groups to research and redesign a key scene from Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Group members had to partake in a variety of roles within this assignment – actor, director, production designer and specialist technicians. Students delivered their section of the play against the contextual backdrop of a different era, previously studied in History (eg. WW1). For the final exhibition, each group of students created a unique production where they produced their own scenes in their own unique style.

In this way the year 7 students were utilising and developing their future skills whilst incorporating knowledge gained from their History and English lessons.

The students watched a production of Romeo and Juliet and then chose a scene that they would re-write and set in a different historical period. The end point was for them to have re-written and produced their own unique interpretation of that scene. And WOW! Were we impressed!

Some students decided to test out their acting skills and deliver a live performance in front of their peers, others decided to film and edit their scenes. We had creativity bursting out of the year 7s as some designed their own puppets to record puppet show versions of Romeo and Juliet. Others chose a technique of Stop Motion which was fantastic. Watch out Nick Park! We had reimagining of Shakespeare in the style of Anime, some students decided to design and draw out their own comic books in a change to a traditional performance. The level of talent and imagination on show was truly breath-taking.

It was an exhibition of skills and talent that should make any parents of the year 7 students involved very proud.

**Mr Sterland and Mrs White**

**Year 8—Mars Colony:**

Currently in our ATL lessons we are completing our Mars Colony assignment. The final product display was this week with all of year 8 taking part. We had to study Mars and space flight, then design a colony that would be able to survive Mars harsh climate. We also had to investigate the colonists that would be the first people to explore Mars, what jobs they would have but also take into account their skills and abilities. We explored both the physical and mental barriers that the astronauts would have to overcome. For the launch we had Question and Answers sessions from two leading female scientists in this area Dr. Heidi Thiemann and Aine O'Brien.

In our year ATL, today we went around both Wykham Park and Futures Institute Banbury. It was so much fun! We got to look at ALL the other peoples work and learn about their models and listen to their presentations about the colonists. Some of the materials they used were foil, Lego, cardboard etc. to make their models. They all looked really good and you could tell how much time and effort they had all put into this project. It was so amazing.

Our group projects had to have a model, a presentation with facts about what materials the real thing would be made of and a video interview with the colonists. We found out as a group that the more time we spend on the project, the better it is. We had to talk about what materials we used and planned out what we made. We used cardboard, foil, Lego and loads more. We had to make a backdrop with facts about mars, information on the materials we would make our colony out of and how those materials would be transported to the red planet. We had to keep in mind the payload capacities of the rockets being used and the fact that we had to use the least weight possible. Some groups used shrinkable plastic and metal and different materials that would not only be economic, but would be able to be transported. Other groups said that they would take plastic polygons up that would not only be light but also easily stacked and easy to build with.

During this assignment we used and developed multiple future skills such as entrepreneurialism, communication, media literacy, cooperative learning, transdisciplinary, sense making, collaboration, creative and adaptive thinking, cognitive load management and media literacy. We learnt what it takes to put all of those future skills together into our work and to work collaboratively to create the best possible outcome.

There are photos of the projects on the next page

**Maddie Prewer and Sash Beavan**

